

A SECOND SPECIES OF *AFGEKIA* (LEGUMINOSAE)

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ABSTRACT. A new species is added to the previously monotypic genus *Afgekia*. *A. mahidolae* Burtt & Chermisrivathana is described from localities in Thailand geographically distant from the other Thailand species, *A. sericea* Craib.

The genus *Afgekia* was proposed by W. G. Craib in 1927 and has till now remained monotypic. The name, it may be noted, is compounded of the initials of A. F. G. Kerr, whose collections revolutionised knowledge of the flora of Thailand. Craib placed the genus near to *Millettia* Wight & Arn. and *Fordia* Hemsl., and this seems to be its proper position. It is a somewhat less woody genus than these and its denser comose inflorescence makes it easily recognizable.

The new species is from Kanchanaburi (Kanburi) which is some 200 miles from the habitat of the original species *A. sericea* in Nakhon Ratchasima (Korat). These localities are separated by the whole width of the plains of the Chao Phraya river, and the discovery of the genus at Kanchanaburi in western Thailand suggests that it will very probably be eventually found in southern Burma as well.

A. mahidolae is dedicated, with permission, to Her Royal Highness, the King's Mother, whose interest in the Thai flora is well known. It may be distinguished from *A. sericea* by the less numerous and less silky leaflets, by the wing petals having a basal appendage only on the upper margin and by the hairs at the top of the style. The latter character is of particular interest as the style is either constantly hairy or constantly glabrous in many genera of Leguminosae. The flower colour of the two species is also different: in *A. sericea* the standard is pale yellow, with pink patches on both sides at the base and a yellow patch in the middle—the wings are pink; in *A. mahidolae* the flowers are darker, the standard purple with central patch of yellow and wings purple; the keel is white in both species.

Afgekia mahidolae Burtt & Chermisrivathana, species nova ab *A. sericea* Craib, specie adhuc unica, foliolis 9–11 supra hispidis subtus pubescentibus, ala basi laminae margine superiore solum appendiculata, appendice pilosa, stylo superne piloso differt. Fig. 1.

Frutex scandens; ramuli elongati, tendriliformes, teretes, primum pilis longis induti mox glabrescentes. *Folia* imparipinnata, 9–11-foliolata; rhachis 11–18.5 cm longa; petiolus 2.5 cm longus, basi incrassatus, molliter pilosus, ut rhachis supra longitudinaliter sulcatus; stipulae semisagittatae, amplexicaules, persistentes, lanceolatae, acuminatae, basi rotundatae, 1–2.5 cm longae et 0.4–0.5 cm latae, utrinque piloso-ciliatae; foliola opposita, ovata vel obovata, 2.5–7.5 cm longa, 1.5–3.5 cm lata, apice breviter mucronata, basi aequaliter rotundata, chartacea, supra pilis hispidis sparsis induta,

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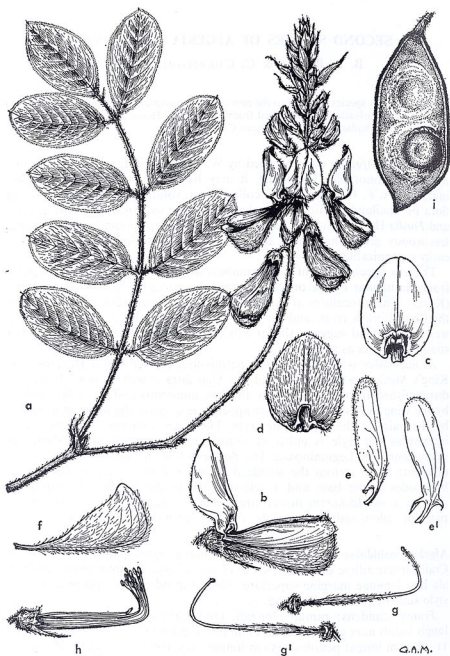


FIG. 1. *Afgekia mahidolae* Burt & Chermisrivathana: a, habit; b, flower; c, standard (inside); d, standard (outside); e, wing; f, keel; g, gynoeceum; h, flower, petals removed; i, fruit. *Afgekia sericea* Craib: e', wing; g', gynoeceum. (a & i $\times \frac{3}{8}$, remainder $\times 1\frac{1}{2}$).

subtus molliter pubescentia, nervis lateralibus utrinque 7-8 supra conspicuis subtus prominulis, nervis secundariis paucis subtus prominulis, marginibus dense ciliatis; petiolulus 2-3 mm longus, pilosus, stipellis aequilongis persistentibus. *Racemi* axillares anthesi folia aequantes, in fructu ea superantes; bractae imbricatae mox deciduae, 1.5-3 cm longae, 7 mm latae, lanceolatae ad (in culta) rhomboideae, acuminatae, utrinque pubescentes, margine pilosae; pedicelli 7-10 mm longi. *Calyx* bilabiatus longe pilosus; lobi posteriores breves, triangulares, 3-6 mm longi et basi 1.5-3 mm lati, apice acuminati; laterales et anterior tubo longiores, laterales lineari-lanceolati 5 mm longi basi 2 mm lati, anterior subulatus 10 mm longus et 3 mm latus; omnes extra intusque pilosi. *Vexillum* ellipticum, apice breviter acuminatum, basi cordatum, 2.2 cm longum, ungui 3 mm longo basi intus medio callo triangulari concavo elevato notatum, glabrum, extra dense et longe pilosum, margine ciliatum. *Ala* oblonga, basin versus margine superiore appendiculata, extra per 5 mm apicem versus pubescens, margine et appendice ciliata, cetera glabra. *Carina* 15 mm longa et 11 mm lata, ungui angustissimo 10 mm longo excluso, extra longe pilosa. *Stamina* diadelphea, adaxiali basi libero superne aliis connato; filamenta inter se subaequalia; anthera oblonga, longitudinaliter dehiscens, basi pilosa. *Ovarium* pubescens, 5 mm longum, stipite 6 mm longo; stylus 21 mm, inferne appresse pubescens ad apicem per 3 mm patenter pilosus; ovula duo. *Legumen* lignosum, crassum, dehiscens, oblongum, 6-9 cm longum et 3-3.5 cm latum, brunneum, pilis velutinis indutum, pedicello 1.5 cm et stipite 7 mm longo suffultum; semina duo compressa.

THAILAND. Prov. Kanchanaburi, Lumsum, Saiyok, climber on tree on hill top, flowers dark purple, 14 viii 1967, *Kasem* 570 (BK); Wangpho, Sai Yok, woody climber in deciduous forest, flowers purple, 15 x 1967, *Chermisrivathana* 784 (BK, E). Cult at Bangkhen, Bangkok, plant from Kanchanaburi, climbing shrub, standard purple with triangular yellow patch in middle, wing purple, keel white, 9 ix 1968, *Chermisrivathana* (holo BK; iso E).